

Foster Parents

Changing Lives One Child at a Time

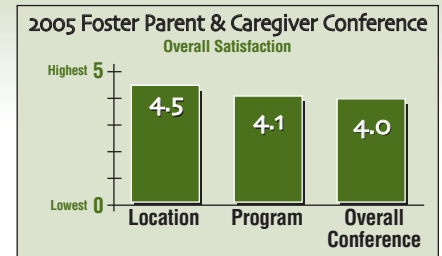
December 2005



2005 Annual Caregivers Conference

Reviews of the conference were very positive, especially around the training quality, location, and activities and based on the conference evaluations; (see chart), the event was a success.

The planning committee has already met to begin planning next year's conference. Look for 2006 date and location in the next newsletter.



KIRO Holiday Magic

DSHS and KIRO News radio 710 have been partners since 1988 in the yearly KIRO Kids Holiday Magic Program. This program provides foster children throughout Western Washington with toys and gifts at Christmas time. DSHS provides the wish lists of the children, and KIRO holds a radio telethon to solicit gifts or money from its listeners to support the program. DSHS then coordinates delivery of the gifts to local offices so they can be matched with the appropriate children. All children are identified by code numbers so that privacy is preserved. One year the partnership served 8,000 children. For more information and to sign your foster child up for a gift contact the social worker assigned to the child in your care.

Holiday Television Special

Tune in and watch this TV special airing on CBS, celebrating the families who adopt and the children in foster care who still wait. If you only see one TV special this holiday season, make it this one. A Home for the Holidays will be airing on Wednesday, December 21, 2005, 8:00 – 9:00 p.m. This special is sponsored by the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, CBS, Wendy's, the National Adoption Campaign and the Children's Action Network.

Aid to Katrina Victims During the Holiday Season

Christmas is just two months away and there are many kids with literally nothing left to play with in Mississippi and Louisiana. The National Foster Parent Association is taking on the task of providing Christmas gifts to the more than 8,000 children and youth in care and children adopted from the foster care system in those two states. Unwrapped gifts are needed for age groups 2-17. Distribution centers are being set up in the two affected states to provide broad access for foster/adoptive families. If you can help, please contact NFPA, 800-557-5238. Information is posted on our website www.nfpa.org for questions; contact Christin Kundert, NFPA, (800) 557-5238 or ckundert@nfpa-inc.org.

Confidentiality of Foster Parent Information

Children's Administration does not release your name or address to the Foster Parent Association of Washington State (FPAWS), local foster parent associations, YMCA of Greater Seattle or to Families for Kids (FFK). These agencies can provide support, information and referral, and key information to assist you in providing for the children in your care. We encourage you to contact each of these agencies and provide them with your information so that they can add you to their email and mailing list and you can then receive important information. To contact FPAWS, FFK, Resource Family Network (Region 5) or the YMCA of Greater Seattle see the information listed below for their phone numbers and website addresses.

Foster Parent Association of Washington State

The Foster Parent Association of Washington State (FPAWS) is seeking new members. FPAWS has been in existence for more than two decades and provides information and advocacy on behalf of foster parents.

The FPAWS website www.fpaws.org includes information useful to foster parents, including trainings, training locations and times, local foster parent associations, and a support line for foster parents 1-800-391-CARE (2273).

Families For Kids

Families for Kids (FFK) has a state contract to provide support services for foster parents in all counties (not including Pierce and Kitsap counties). You can contact them at 1-888-794-1794 or www.familiesforkids.org. Their fall newsletter, with the latest activities and support information, is currently available on the website.

To help in the work you do, you are encouraged to join a hub, buddy system or support group run by Families for Kids.

YMCA of Greater Seattle

The YMCA of Greater Seattle is the statewide recruitment contractor for all counties (not including Pierce and Kitsap counties). You can contact them at 1-800-760-5340 or whyfoster@seattleyymca.org.

Foster Care Resource Network

The Foster Care Resource Network is the recruitment and retention contractor for Pierce and Kitsap counties. You can contact them at 1-253-677-8122.

Foster Parent Training

All licensed family foster homes (including private agency, Children's Administration and licensed relative homes) are required to complete 36 hours of ongoing training during each three year licensing period. There are great trainings available to help you in the work you do. To find out what trainings are available go to the foster parent website at <http://www1.dsha.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/training.asp>

Important Numbers

Important numbers to know when you take care of children in foster care or are thinking about doing so:

Statewide information about becoming a foster or adoptive parent

Why Foster statewide telephone line at 1-800-760-5340 or whyfoster@seattleyymca.org

Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. or leave a message and receive a return call within 24 hours.

Statewide information about getting foster parent support

Families for Kids: 1-888-794-1784 or www.familiesforkids.org

Monday- Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. or leave a message and receive a return call by the next business day.

Kitsap and Pierce County information about becoming a foster parent or receiving foster parent support

Foster Care Resource Network, 1-253-677-8122

Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. or leave a message and receive a return call by the next business day.

General foster parent information for the state of Washington FPAWS

Foster Parent Association of Washington State, 1-800-391-CARE (2273) or www.fpaws.org

Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. or leave a message and receive a return call by the next business day. Seeking new members and supporting foster parents in many ways, including referrals to local associations.

Support for foster parents under investigation for allegations of abuse or neglect

Foster Parent Investigation Retention Support Team (FIRST) 1-253-219-6782

Monday – Saturday, 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., or leave a message and receive a return call within 24 hours.

CA Foster Parent and Caregiver Crisis Line and general support on licensing and case management questions not abuse or neglect

Caregiver Support/Crisis Line, 1-800-301-1868. Weeknights from 4:30 p.m. – 8:00 a.m./weekends and holidays, 24 hours per day.

Family Help Line: 1-800-932-HOPE or www.parenttrust.org

The Family Help Line is a free, statewide training and referral line for the families of Washington State. Last year, the Family Help Line received over 5,000 calls and requests for information. Calls can last up to 90 minutes and parents can call as often as needed.

Children's Administration Foster Parent Website and Foster Parent Training Website

For Information about foster parenting <http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/>

For Information about foster parent training <http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/training.asp>

Children's Administration Foster Care Listserv

Join the 400 people who have subscribed to the List Serve:®

<http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=fosterparents&&A=1>